

CUMMINGS, BARBARA LEE, GUTIERREZ, GEORGE MILLER, WOOLSEY, LOFGREN, GONZALES, SANDERS, and LINDA SÁNCHEZ in introducing the Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act will ensure that hate crimes motivated by gender are accounted for by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their area and chart their progress toward eliminating them. Moreover, the inclusion of gender will send a strong message that gender-based hate crimes will not be tolerated.

In states with gender-based hate crimes laws, prosecutors typically must present concrete evidence that the criminal act was committed due to gender bias. Obviously, not all crimes against women are gender-based crimes, and prosecutors should have discretion in identifying what constitutes a gender-based hate crime. The process of discussing these differences will improve the understanding of all hate crimes by law enforcement personnel and will improve reporting of these tragic crimes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that will help reduce hate crimes against women.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 53, 54 and 55, question before the House on March 8, 2005 I did not cast votes due to inclement weather wherein my flight to Washington, D.C. was cancelled. My alternate transportation did not convey me here in a timely manner. Had I been present I would have vote "aye" on rollcalls 53, 54 and 55.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN FIELDS STOVALL

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of a distinguished constituent and good friend, John Fields Stovall. John has worked as General Counsel for the Kern County Water Agency in my district for more than sixteen years, earning the respect of his peers for his thoughtful, effective work on behalf of California water interests.

John has lived most of his life in Bakersfield, California, beginning at the age of ten. He graduated from Bakersfield High School and subsequently Bakersfield College, where he studied pre-pharmacy. John moved to the University of California at Los Angeles, where he graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

Before beginning his career in water issues, John first worked for the Food and Drug Administration as an Investigator and received his J.D. degree, with honors, from Loyola Law School. John worked for several law firms, in-

cluding the respected Lebeau, Thelen and Lampe. While working at Lebeau, Thelen and Lampe, John met his wife, the former Jan Blocher, and began legal work on water rights issues. He took that experience with him to the Kern County Water Agency in 1989, when he joined the Agency as General Counsel.

John has successfully shepherded the Agency through many legal challenges and opportunities, including the organization of the Kern Water Bank. His work to ensure continued favorable operation of the State Water Project has helped to provide consistent water supplies for thousands of Kern County residents and farmers. It was a pleasure to work closely with John in our efforts to reauthorize the federal portion of the California Bay-Delta Program. In recent years, he studied for and successfully received his Doctorate from the highly-respected Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management at Claremont Graduate University.

In his personal life, John is active in the local community. He participates in the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce's Government Review Council and the Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary Club. He supports local students as a competition judge for high school mock trial competitions, and is an active member of the Kern County Republican Party.

While John's full-time career at Kern County Water Agency is coming to an end, I am sure that he and Jan will continue to be valuable and active members of our community in Bakersfield. On behalf of Kern County residents who recognize the necessity and value of reliable water supplies, I thank John for his service and wish him and Jan the best as they begin the next stage of their lives.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ROBERTO SANTOS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United Independence School District Superintendent Roberto Santos for his many contributions to education in the City of Laredo.

Roberto Santos has been a longtime advocate for education in the State of Texas. He received his BA from St. Edward's University in Austin, and completed his Masters in Education at the University of Texas—Pan American campus.

Beginning in 1966 as a teacher at Laredo Independent School District, he worked his way up through successive positions in the educational system. He worked as Director of Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, and finally Superintendent of the entire United Independent School District, serving the students of Laredo.

Roberto Santos has also enriched the community through his work as a businessman. He began as an auto salesman in 1975, and has been owner or part owner of two businesses, Santos Auto Sales and Homeland Mobile Homes.

On top of all this, he has given his time and energy to a multitude of volunteer organiza-

tions. He served as President of the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators and the Kiwanis Club, and served on the boards of the United Way, Laredo Community College, the Laredo South Girls Little League, and the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation. At each step, Roberto Santos has given of himself to make Laredo stronger, and to ensure a quality education for its children.

Mr. Speaker, United Independent School District Superintendent Robert J. Santos life is a model of community involvement, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly thank him.

CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM TERPELUK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brigadier General William Terpeluk who completes his term as Deputy Commander for the 77th Regional Readiness Command this month and thank him for his service to our nation. General Terpeluk served in this position from 31 March 2001–30 March 2005. He was Deputy Commander during 9–11 and through the War on Terror. He moves on in his military career later this month.

The 77th Regional Readiness Command is located in Fort Totten, New York. It is headquartered in Bayside, Queens, New York at historic Fort Totten, where the Reserve Command has been since 1968.

Brigadier General Terpeluk is an Infantry Officer who received his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in 1974 from the Virginia Military Institute. After completing the Infantry Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, he served on Active Duty as the Executive Officer, Company E, 3d Battalion, 3d Basic Combat Training Brigade, Fort Dix, NJ.

His next assignment was as the Assistant Brigade S–1, 3d Basic Combat Training Brigade, Fort Dix, NJ. Brigadier General Terpeluk was then assigned to Korea where he functioned as the Executive Officer, HHC, 1st Battalion (M), 31st Infantry and Rifle Platoon Leader, Company B, 1st Battalion (M), 31st Infantry, Camp Casey, as well as Support Platoon Leader, 1st Battalion (M), 31st Infantry, Camp Howze, Korea.

In October of 1978, Brigadier General Terpeluk transitioned to the United States Army Reserve as the Executive Officer, and later as the Commander, of Company B, 1st Battalion (M), 315th Infantry, 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (M), Bristol, PA. Between February 1982 to May 86 he served as the Aide-de-Camp and Headquarters Commandant, Hqs, 79th United States Army Reserve Command, Willow Grove, PA. From May 86 to January 1993, Brigadier General Terpeluk served as the Executive Officer and Commander, 4074th Reception Battalion, 76th Division (Training), Willow Grove, PA. From January 1993 to July 94, he served as the Chief of Staff, 157th Separate Infantry Brigade (M), Horsham, PA.

After a year on Active Duty to complete the United States Army War College, Brigadier General Terpeluk returned to the Army Reserve as the Commander of the 1079th Garrison Support Unit from 1995 to 1997. Between